

Based Upon: PCT/EP2003/012855

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A defibrillator including an output stage that has a high-voltage section and patient electrode connections which can be automatically connected by a coupling circuit to said high-voltage section via a relay, and that has a relay testing device. A reliable functioning of the defibrillator is ensured due to the provision of a discharging resistor device which can be automatically switched to instead of the patient electrode connections by the relay, and because the relay testing device is designed for testing the relay while involving the state of the adjacent discharging resistor device.